



# The Pirate Compass

PINE TREE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

FALL 2017

## Twenty-Four Recognized As AP Scholars Students Score Above State, National and Global Averages

Twenty-four students at Pine Tree High School have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP exams.

on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) provides willing and academically prepared students the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school and earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. Pine Tree High School offers 16 AP courses in which students are provided the opportunity to earn this credit and stand out in the college admission process.



® Helen Ball, Madeline Boche, Jack Cheng, Dominique Cope, Aleigh Crowder, Korbin Davis, Meredith Green, William Harris, Micaiah Higginbotham, Colby Holloman, Katherine Le, Luis Ledezma, Diamond McKinney, Madison Randall, Kalie Rhodes, Clara Richardson, Andrew Seidel, Andrew Short, and Shelby Smith qualified for the **AP Scholar Award** by completing three or more AP Exams with scores of 3 or higher.

The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on AP Exams.

From the 16 courses Pine Tree High School offers, students performed above the state, national, and global averages in Studio Art 2-D Design, English Literature and Composition, and Calculus.

**Jeffery Counts, Tyler Russell, and Christopher Schaetz** qualified for the **AP Scholar with Distinction Award** by earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Through 37 different college-level courses and exams, AP provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to earn college credit or advanced placement and stand out in the college admission process.

**Joel Ramirez and Audrey Soltau** qualified for the **AP Scholar with Honor Award** by earning an average score of at least 3.25

## A MESSAGE FROM DR. TJ FARLER

Dear Parents and Community,

In Pine Tree ISD, our focus and our efforts continue to provide our students and faculty/staff with more opportunities for innovation, creativity, and academic success. In addition to completing



our comprehensive District Strategic Plan, the Texas Education Agency has approved Pine Tree ISD as a District of Innovation. The District of Innovation status allows Pine Tree ISD to make local decisions for operations in the district such as the school calendar, teacher planning and preparation time, and professional learning. This flexibility allows the teachers and staff in the District to create and design customized learning for our students.

Pine Tree ISD is now an Advanced Placement Capstone District. The College Board approved Pine Tree ISD as an AP Capstone District in February 2017. The AP Capstone program provides rigorous high school course work, challenging core curriculum courses, and the end of the year exams required by the College Board. The AP Capstone Diploma is awarded to students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar, AP Research, and at least four other traditional AP exams for which they have also completed the coursework. Both the AP Capstone program and the IB program are governed by the College Board and have similar requirements. Both programs are recognized by colleges and universities as programs of academic rigor and distinction.

Our elementary Advanced Academics/Gifted and Talented program continues to offer students engaging learning through STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math),

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fine arts, robotics, and UIL competitions. Our small class sizes in grades 1 - 4 offer our students opportunities for one-to-one learning and small group learning with GT peers. Our Math/ Science competitive teams (grades 5 - 12) continue to take local and state honors. PTISD students received 9 Top Gun state awards and placed 4th in the state at Texas Math and Science Coaches Association (TMSC) state meet.

While PTISD, continues to increase overall enrollment, we remain committed to smaller class sizes. Our elementary classes average 18-19 students per classroom. PTISD provides personalized, engaging learning for our students. One example is our Girls in Technology program. In October, 200 girls grades 1- 12 participated in a challenge event held at Komatsu in Longview. Several local business partners teamed up to provide challenge activities, engineering strategies, and mentoring for students.

The District continues academic excellence as our SAT/ACT scores are above both the state and national level. Our students continue to score above the state, national, and global level in our AP (Advanced Placement) testing. The District as well as all campuses received the highest rating available, and both PTHS and Parkway Elementary received Distinctions this year.

While Pine Tree ISD champions excellence, we continue to provide a personalized, enriching learning experience for all students. For more information about our district, check out the State of the District report (2016-17) located on the PTISD website.

Sincerely

*TJ Farler*

TJ Farler, EdD  
Superintendent, Pine Tree ISD

# PTISD STRATEGIC PLAN

## VISION

A Tradition of Excellence

## MISSION

The Pine Tree family champions the relentless pursuit of excellence through a compassionate and safe learning environment empowering all students to develop their unique passions and to make a positive impact in a global society.

## BELIEFS

We believe in:

- Lifelong Learning - We are a learning organization, where students are engaged and leaders grow.
- Innovation Through Collaboration - We foster a culture of innovation: working together, adapting to change.
- Trust & Safety - We provide a trusting and safe environment-accountable to the highest standards and most effective tools.
- Respect - We respect each other, embracing diversity and global awareness.

## GOALS

- All students will reach their full potential.
- All students will thrive in a global society.
- All students will discover and pursue their unique passions.

## STRATEGY 1

We will create a customized learning environment that ensures a culture of innovation

## STRATEGY 2

We will maximize learning through the use of advanced resources and digital literacy

## STRATEGY 3

We will boldly support the social and emotional needs of all families

## STRATEGY 4

We will ensure student leadership is an integral part of our learning culture

## STRATEGY 5

We will recruit, develop, support, and retain the highest quality staff

## 2017 ACCOUNTABILITY SUMMARY

### District

Met Standard

### PT ExCEL

Met Alternative Standard

### PT Middle School

Met Standard

### PT Birch Elementary

Met Standard

### PT High School

Met Standard

### PT Junior High

Met Standard

### PT Parkway Elementary

Met Standard

### PT Primary

Met Standard

### Distinction Designations

Academic Achievement in Science

### Distinction Designations

Academic Achievement in ELA/Reading  
Academic Achievement in Mathematics

## Pine Tree Distinction Designations

*Parkway*  
ELEMENTARY

### Academic Achievement in ELA/Reading

- Greater Than Expected Student Growth in ELA/Reading
- Grade 3 Reading Performance (Masters Grade Level)

### Academic Achievement in Mathematics

- Greater Than Expected Student Growth in Mathematics
- Grade 4 Mathematics Performance (Masters Grade Level)

*Pine Tree*  
HIGH SCHOOL

### Academic Achievement in Science

- AP/IB Exam Performance: Science
- ACT Performance: Science
- Advanced/Dual Credit Course Completion Rate: Science



Lifelong Learning | Innovation Through Collaboration | Trust & Safety | Respect

# FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE

FIRST

## Pine Tree ISD Earns Superior Rating from FIRST

Pine Tree ISD's effort to present financial information online in a comprehensive and transparent manner have again earned the district the highest possible rating for financial transparency. PTISD has earned the top rating each year for the past seven years for making key financial document and supporting information easily available to the public via the Pine Tree ISD website at [www.ptisd.org](http://www.ptisd.org).

Pine Tree ISD stakeholders can be assured that their financial investments in the district are being well managed. In the complicated and ever changing world of school finances, Pine Tree ISD has maintained a healthy fund balance, competitive salaries and a responsible tax rate of 1.555 for the past five years. Locally, Pine Tree ISD offers homeowners the lowest tax rate with the 20% homestead exemption. This is achieved through conservative forecasting, long-range planning and efficient operations.

## Pine Tree ISD Board of Trustees



Front: Superintendent Dr. T.J. Farler, Adam Graves, Dr. Melanie Roudkovski, Secretary Jim Cerrato  
Back: Anthony Tanner, President Frank Richards, Vice President Amy Brown, Dr. Kerri Daugbjerg

## NEW PRINCIPAL SPOTLIGHT

### Cleo Wadley, Principal of ExCEL High School of Choice



Mr. Wadley joined the Pine Tree family as the principal of the ExCEL High School of Choice campus in August 2017. He has 23 years experience as a teacher and an administrator. Mr. Wadley earned a Bachelor's degree from Texas State University and a Master's degree from Prairie View A & M University.

**Education Philosophy:** *As educators, we must be relentless in our efforts to ensure students have a high quality education.*

### Mickey White, Principal, Pine Tree Middle School

Mr. White joined the Pine Tree family as the principal of Pine Tree Middle School in August 2017. Mr. White has sixteen years experience as a teacher and an administrator. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Social Studies and Math Education from Louisiana College and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Dallas Baptist University.



**Education Philosophy:** *I believe that education is the ultimate equalizer for everyone. It our job to provide all students with the best possible education and ensure that they all have the chance to be successful in whatever endeavor they want to pursue.*

### Jill Clay, Principal, Birch Elementary



Mrs. Clay joined the Pine Tree family as Assistant Principal at Pine Tree Middle School in August of 2016. She served as interim principal at Birch Elementary from January 2017 to March 2017 when she was appointed principal of Birch Elementary. Mrs. Clay earned a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Iowa Wesleyan College and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Stephen F. Austin State University.

**Education Philosophy:** *My role is to encourage supportive relationships that foster goodwill between teachers that is contagious school-wide and share that with other members of our learning community. My role is to facilitate a supportive environment where the learning community feels safe to step out and change to meet the goals and objectives of our school's vision and the PTISD mission. Without vision, there will be no accomplishments.*

## CAMPUS CONTACT INFORMATION

### PRIMARY

Principal: Cristi Parsons  
Assistant Principal: Ruthie Walker  
Physical Address: 1808 Silver Falls Rd.  
Longview, TX 75604  
Campus Telephone Number: (903) 295-5095

### BIRCH ELEMENTARY

Principal: Jill Clay  
Assistant Principal: Sharon Smith  
Physical Address: 815 Birch Drive  
Longview, TX 75604  
Campus Telephone Number: (903) 295-5120

### PARKWAY ELEMENTARY

Principal: Melanie Keoun  
Assistant Principal: Lori Ashby  
Physical Address: 601 PT Parkway  
Longview, TX 75604  
Campus Telephone Number: (903) 295-5151

### MIDDLE

Principal: Mickey White  
Asst. Principal: Tricia Kelley  
Asst. Principal: Josh White  
Physical Address: 600 P.T. Parkway  
Longview, TX 75604  
Campus Telephone Number: (903) 295-5160

### JUNIOR HIGH

Principal: Vanessa Robinson  
Assistant Principal: Hannah Brooks  
Assistant Principal: Lisa Sawyer  
Physical Address: 2100 W Loop 281  
Longview, TX 75604  
Campus Telephone Number: (903) 295-5081

### HIGH SCHOOL

Principal: Cindy Gabehart  
Assistant Principal: Carrie Chandler  
Assistant Principal: Melanie Bridges  
Assistant Principal: Caci Brinkley  
Assistant Principal: Harold Jackson  
Physical Address: 900 Northwest Drive  
Longview, TX 75604  
Campus Telephone Number: (903) 295-5031

### EXCEL

Principal: Cleo Wadley  
Physical Address: 900 Northwest Drive  
Longview, TX 75604  
Campus Telephone Number: (903) 295-6753

### PACE

Principal: Shalonda W. Adams  
Physical Address: 1701 Pine Tree Road  
Longview, TX 75604  
Campus Telephone Number: (903) 295-5130





**Pine Tree Independent School**

P. O. BOX 5878 LONGVIEW, TX 75608

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## *A Tradition of Excellence*

# Duke **TiP**

TALENT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

Twenty five Pine Tree Junior High Students participated in the 2017 Duke Talent Identification Program.

**Grant Beakley**  
**James Bethard**  
**Tyler Blondrage**  
**Ian Boche**  
**Samantha Bradley**  
**Asyiah Bray**  
**Rylan Butler**  
**Lola Cobayashi**  
**Estevan Ibarra**

**Natalie Hunt**  
**Lenore Martin**  
**Karmina Mbeh**  
**Arielyn Measles**  
**Oseas Medina**  
**Andrew Meek**  
**Shane Moore**  
**Laniyah Nelson**  
**Janis Phu**

**Angel Ramos**  
**Noah Sims**  
**Jeanne Thurman**  
**Dulcie Troquille**  
**Cristian Vasquez**  
**Rylie Waciawczyk**  
**Devyn Westmoreland**

Duke (TIP) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving academically talented youth. More than 2.5 million students have benefited from TIP programs and resources since 1980. Duke TIP's talent identification, academic and research programs now serve as worldwide models for the education of gifted students.

***Congratulations to each of our PT students! We are Pirate proud of you!***